

Remarks

Claims 1-5, 7-19, 21-37, 39-46, and 51-52 are pending. Claims 6, 20, 38, and 50 have been canceled. Claims 1, 15, and 29 are amended. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout Applicants' specification, including, for example, the figures.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-11, 14, 29-43 and 46 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsukazaki et al. (US 5,589,667). This rejection was repeated from a previous office action mailed Sept. 24, 2003.

Applicants' independent claims 1 and 29, as amended, now recite that the removable core has a primary line of localized weakening that has a periodic sinusoidal, zig-zag shaped, triangular, or trapezoidal wave form. Applicants' claim amendments have rendered the rejection moot because Tsukazaki does not disclose a core having a primary line of weakening that has a periodic sinusoidal, zig-zag shaped, triangular, or trapezoidal wave form. The rejection of claims 1-11, 14, 29-43 and 46 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsukazaki '667 has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-9, 11-14, 19-23, 25-41, 43-46 and 50-52 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Someno et al. (JP 10-64607).

Applicants' independent claims 1, 15, and 29, as amended, now recite that the removable core has a primary line of localized weakening that has a periodic sinusoidal, zig-zag shaped, triangular, or trapezoidal wave form. Because Someno does not disclose that its groove 6 (which the Examiner has characterized as similar to Applicants' primary line of localized weakening) has a periodic sinusoidal, zig-zag shaped, triangular, or trapezoidal wave form, Someno cannot anticipate Applicants' invention. Although the Examiner states on the bottom of page 4 to the top of page 5 that "Someno et al. discloses that at least one primary weakening line has a zig-zag wave form (page 5, line 18)," Applicants are unable find that language in the English translation of the Someno reference. Someno does state, however, that "the outer peripheral surface 3a of plastic core 3 has grooves 6, 6a, 6b for breaking the core 3 into a strip 5 in a zigzag form . . .".

Thus it is the core that breaks in a zig-zag form. Someno shows in his Fig. 2 (his 1st embodiment) that groove 6 is substantially straight. Someno shows in his Fig. 7 (his 2nd embodiment) that there is no groove 6, but a plurality of grooves 6e that have been staggered in a random way. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-9, 11-14, 19-23, 25-41, 43-46 and 50-52 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Someno has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 12, 13, 15-28, 44-45 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsukazaki '667 in view of Sadlo et al. (US 5,670,223). This rejection was repeated from a previous office action mailed Sept. 24, 2003.

As stated above, Tsukazaki does not disclose a core having a primary line of weakening that has a periodic sinusoidal, zig-zag shaped, triangular, or trapezoidal wave form. Sadlo '223 does not cure this deficiency. Sadlo's core for a cold-shrink tube is produced from a ribbon helically wound on itself to form a cylindrical tube. The edges of the ribbon are formed to interlock with each other and are contoured to facilitate ultrasonic welding of the edges. Thus, one skilled in the art familiar with the disclosure of Sadlo would not be able to modify Tsukazaki to arrive at Applicants' invention. The rejection of claims 12, 13, 15-28, 44-45 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsukazaki in view of Sadlo has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 15-23 and 25-28 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Someno. As stated above, Someno does not disclose or suggest a core having a primary line of weakening that has a periodic sinusoidal, zig-zag shaped, triangular, or trapezoidal wave form. The rejection of claims 15-23 and 25-28 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Someno has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 10, 24, and 42 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Someno in view of Tsukazaki '667. Neither Someno nor Tsukazaki disclose a core having a primary line of weakening that has a periodic sinusoidal, zig-zag shaped, triangular, or trapezoidal wave form. The rejection of claims 10, 24, and 42 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Someno in view of Tsukazaki has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.
Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Allowance of the pending claims, as amended, at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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